

REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 25 and 27-44 remain in the present application. Claim 24 is cancelled herein. Claims 1, 9, 15, 21, 23, 28, 30, 32, 36, 39 and 43 are amended herein. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration of the rejections based on the arguments set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 24, 36-37 and 43-44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 19, 21-23 and 32-35

Claims 1-4, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 19, 21-23 and 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Number 6,188,394 to Morein et al. (hereafter referred to as "Morein") in view of United States Patent Number 6,366,289 to Johns (hereafter referred to as "Johns"). Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1-4, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 19, 21-23 and 32-35 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Johns for the following reasons. Independent Claims 1, 9, 15, 21 and 32 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent Claims 24, 36 and 43, and therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 9, 15, 21

and 32 overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record. Since Claims 2-4, 10, 13, 16-17, 19, 22-23 and 33-35 recite further limitations to the invention claimed in their respective independent Claims, dependent Claims 2-4, 10, 13, 16-17, 19, 22-23 and 33-35 also overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 19, 21-23 and 32-35 are allowable.

Claims 5-6, 11-12, 18 and 25

Claims 5-6, 11-12, 18 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morein in view of Johns, further in view of United States Patent Number 5,664,162 to Dye (hereafter referred to as "Dye"), and further in view of United States Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0140655 of Liang et al. (hereafter referred to as "Liang"). Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 5-6, 11-12, 18 and 25 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Johns further in view of Dye and further in view of Liang for the following reasons. Independent Claims 1, 9, 15 and 21 have been amended to include allowable subject matter as discussed above, and therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 9, 15 and 21 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Johns further in view of Dye and further yet in view of Liang. Since Claims 5-6, 11-12, 18 and 25 recite further limitations to the invention claimed in their respective independent Claims, dependent Claims 5-6, 11-12, 18 and 25 also overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5-6, 11-12, 18 and 25 are allowable.

Claims 7-8, 14, 20, 27 and 38

Claims 7-8, 14, 20, 27 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morein in view of Johns, further in view of United States Patent Number 5,594,854 to Baldwin et al. (referred to herein as "Baldwin"), and further in view of "Fast Spheres, Shadows, Textures, Transparencies, and Image Enhancements in Pixel-Planes" by Fuchs et al. (referred to herein as "Fuchs"). Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 7-8, 14, 20, 27 and 38 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Johns further in view of Baldwin and further yet in view of Fuchs for the following reasons. Independent Claims 1, 9, 15, 21 and 32 have been amended to include allowable subject matter as discussed above, and therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 9, 15, 21 and 32 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Johns further in view of Baldwin and further yet in view of Fuchs. Since Claims 7-8, 14, 20, 27 and 38 recite further limitations to the invention claimed in their respective independent Claims, dependent Claims 7-8, 14, 20, 27 and 38 also overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7-8, 14, 20, 27 and 38 are allowable.

Claims 39-42

Claims 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morein in view of Johns further in view of Baldwin and further yet in view of Fuchs. Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 39-42 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Johns further in view of Baldwin and further yet in view of Fuchs for the following reasons. Independent Claim 39 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent Claims 24, 36 and 43, and therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 39 overcomes the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record. Since Claims 40-42 recite further limitations to the invention claimed in their respective independent Claims, dependent Claims 40-42 also overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 39-42 are allowable.

Claims 28-30

Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morein in view Fuchs and further in view of Johns. Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 28-30 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Fuchs and further in view of Johns for the following reasons. Independent Claims 28 and 30 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent Claims 24, 36 and 43, and therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 28 and 30 overcome the 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) rejection of record. Since Claim 29 recite further limitations to the invention claimed in independent Claim 28, dependent Claim 29 also overcomes the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 28-30 are allowable.

Claim 31

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morein in view of Fuchs, further in view of Johns, and further yet in view of United States Patent Number 7,158,148 to Toji et al. (hereafter referred to as "Toji"). Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claim 31 are not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Fuchs further in view of Johns and further yet in view of Toji for the following reasons. Independent Claim 30 has been amended to include allowable subject matter as discussed above, and therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 30 is not rendered obvious by Morein in view of Fuchs further in view of Johns and further yet in view of Toji. Since Claim 31 recites further limitations to the invention claimed in independent Claim 30, dependent Claim 31 also overcomes the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 31 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-23, 25 and 27-44 are in condition for allowance and Applicants earnestly solicit such action from the Examiner.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 50-4160.

Respectfully submitted,

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/BMF/

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